

The Applicant elects to prosecute the species of the claimed invention shown in Embodiment 1. The Applicant also provisionally elects claims 30, 31 and 37 which are readable on the elected species to be prosecuted on the merits.

The Applicant does not waive any rights with respect to the non-elected species and does not intend to abandon that subject matter. If the Examiner makes the election requirement final, the Applicant respectfully requests that the non-elected species be withdrawn from further consideration but remain in this application subject to reinstatement, in the event that a generic claim is allowed, or for possible filing of a divisional application(s).

An Information Disclosure Statement will follow shortly which will make of record a number of citations which were recently cited during an opposition to the corresponding EPO application. Two citations which were applied during that opposition are EP-0 440 955 (equivalent to US-5,157,830) and EP-1 211 761, copies of which accompany this response.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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